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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /058 W
---------- 022077
R 221430Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7027
INFO DIA
USCINCEUR
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS YO
SUBJ: KOMUNIST REBUKES DELO COMMENTATOR

REF BELGRADE 3684

1. CURRENT ISSUE LCY ORGAN KOMUNIST ATTACKS DELO COMMENTATOR JANEZ STANIC FOR ARTICLE WHICH COMPLAINED OF CENSORSHIP ON REPORTING OF BELGRADE RAILWAY STATION EXPLOSION. AN UNSIGNED ARTICLE ENTITLED "LIBERALIST FAULT-FINDING", KOMUNIST ACCUSED STANIC AND ONE OTHER UNNAMED JOURNALIST OF ACTING IRRESPONSIBLY WITHOUT ADDING TO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF BOMBING. STANIC FURTHER EXCORIATED FOR JUSTIFYING SUCH IRRESPONSIBILITY AS JOURNALISTIC VIRTUE AND ESSENTIALLY DENYING NEED TO COOPERATE WITH AUTHORITIES. ARTICLE STATES PROVACATIVE STANIC THESIS THAT CENSORSHIP LIABLE TO CREATE CRISIS OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE SUBJECT TO "MOST VARIED CONCLUSIONS". PIECE CONCLUDES "THIS WIRTING CONTAINS LIBERALIST FAULT-FINDING WHICH, PROCEEDING FROM A SPECIAL KIND OF IDEA OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DISREGARDS THE ELEMENTARY NORMS OF CONDUCT OF JOURNALISTS"--PRESUMABLY MEANING THAT UNLIKE OTHERS STANIC REFUSED TO FOLLOW ORDERS FROM AUTHORITIES.

2. ARTICLE JUSTIFIES NEED FOR OFFICIAL RESTRICTION OF NEWS ON BOMBING TO DENY PERPETRATORS PUBLICITY THEY UNDOUBTEDLY SOUGHT
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AND INFORMATION OF INVESTIGATION WHICH COULD ENABLE THEM AVOID

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ITS TRPS. INFORMATION RELEASED SAID TO REFLECT FULL TRUTH AT THAT MOMENT AND TO BE QUITE ENOUGH FOR PUBLIC, THE SORT OF CON-DESCENSION WHICH PARTICULARLY ANNOYED STANIC.

3. COMMENT: KOMUNIST IS HIGHEST-LEVEL POSSIBLE PRESS REPLY TO DELO ARTICLE AND PROBABLY INTENDED TO PUT MEDIA ON NOTICE THAT OPEN CHALLENGE TO POLICY ON SENSITIVE MATTER WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. FACT THAT ARTICLE UNSIGNED SUGGESTS IT REPRESENTS OFFICIAL LCY POSITION RATHER THAN IDEAS OF PARTICULAR WRITER.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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